

Performance
Evaluation &
Research Division
(PERD)

PERD's Objective:

To determine if the West Virginia Aeronautics Commission's current structure was still necessary.

Key Recommendations:

The Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities should build on the grant award process developed by the former Commission and ensure it includes all elements typical of grant agreements.

The Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities review both the AIP Handbook and the AIP Oversight Risk Model and consider developing similar materials on a state level as part of its grants management process.

The Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities should consider restructuring the awarding of direct and matching grant funds on a competitive basis, with scoring and formula criteria similar to Ohio's example, or consider redistributing unused direct grant funds.

December 2022

Agency Review: Aeronautics Commission

Agency Purpose:

The purpose of the Commission was to empower and directed to encourage, foster, and assist in the development of aeronautics in this State and to encourage the establishment of airports and air navigation facilities.

What Did PERD Find?

- Over time, the responsibilities of the Aeronautics Commission (Commission) were repealed, leaving three main functions. However, due to circumstances beyond the agency's control, the Commission could only perform one: the development of aeronautics in the state.

- The Commission functioned as a conduit for state funds via the issuance of grants for the maintenance and marketing of airports. The Commission also served as the point of contact for parties involved in aviation issues in West Virginia.

- House Bill 4492, effective March 12, 2022, eliminated the Commission and combined its responsibilities with those of the State Rail Authority, Division of Public Transit, and the Public Port Authority into the Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities within the Department of Transportation.

- The Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities Aeronautics Section will continue an important function of the Commission: encouraging, fostering, and assisting in the development of aeronautics.

- The Aviation Fuel Tax Fund is the primary source of funds for the issuance of grants to public use airports. The fund cash balance declined from a high of \$3.5 million in FY 2014 to under \$1 million in FY 2021. Thus, this will likely require the Division to develop a methodology for competitively awarding grants.

Table 4					
Aviation Fuel Tax Fund Revenue and Expenditures					
FY 2017 through FY 2021					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Revenue	\$955,812	\$1,349,339	\$1,281,536	\$1,293,846	\$928,900
Expenditures	\$1,035,853	\$810,453	\$1,744,825	\$1,492,005	\$1,039,843
Cash Balance	\$1,142,464	\$1,681,351	\$1,218,061	\$1,019,903	\$909,960
<i>Source: PERD Analysis of OASIS WV-FIN-GL-151 Board Summary Reports.</i>					